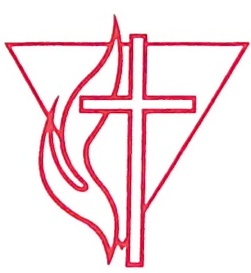


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# Affirmation

Winter 1994

Volume 19

Number 4

## Jeanne Barnett Receives Bishop's Award

Bishop Melvin G. Talbert, California-Nevada Annual Conference, presented the Bishop's Award to Jeanne Barnett, an

\*\*\*\*\*  
*"she always gave generously of her time and abilities to the Church."*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Affirmation Co-Spokesperson. During the plenary Annual Conference Session this June, Bishop Talbert hung the medallion around Jeanne's neck. He recognized Jeanne because "she always gave generously of her time and abilities to the Church."

Bishop Talbert cited her local church work as a member of St. Mark's UMC, Sacramento, Delta District Lay Leader and her current work as Director of Administration/Services Division of the Conference Capital Campaign "Expanding Our Vision."

*Please turn to page three*

## Judicial Council Decisions

At its October meeting, the United Methodist Judicial Council determined that definitions of "self-avowed practicing homosexual" adopted by West Virginia and California-Pacific Annual Conferences were inadequate. The West Virginia definition included third party reporting which went beyond "self-avowal." The Cal-Pac definition included the "intent" to engage in same sex genital relations in the future, an unacceptable ground upon which to deny ordination or appointment. Rev. Frank Wulf of that conference continues as a clergy-person in good standing.

Full text of Judicial Council decisions is available from the Secretary of the Judicial Council:

Rev. Wayne W. Coffin

Oklahoma City, OK

## National Council Notes

The National Council of Affirmation met in Los Angeles on October 7, 1994, prior to the National Gathering. Much was accomplished, especially within the various committees that worked through the day and into the week-end of the Gathering. True to our commitment to keep the membership informed this is a summary of the actions taken and items discussed.

*Please turn to page three*

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**The 1995 National Gathering  
In the "BIG D" -- DALLAS, TEXAS**

**April 21-23, 1995**

**See Page Eleven for Details**



## Witness Committee Report

### General Conference Event

The General Commission on the General Conference has invited Affirmation to send representation to a meeting of its Program Committee in Denver, CO, on November 17, 1994. Co-spokespersons Jeanne Barnett and Tom Russell and Witness Committee members Jeanne Knepper and Rebecca Richards will attend the meeting. Together with representatives from the Methodist Federation for Social Action and the Reconciling Congregation Program, we will help to shape an event at General Conference that will witness to the importance of civil rights for lesbian, gay and bisexual people. The invitation comes as a follow-up to our presence at a June 1993 meeting, where Affirmation, MFSA and the RCP urged the Commission to protest the Colorado adoption of an anti-gay rights amendment by moving the 1996 General Conference out of Colorado. At that time, in a compromise decision, those present were promised that they would be consulted to plan the General Conference event. Affirmation hopes to plan an event that will focus General Conference attention on the on-going attack on our civil rights and will lead the Church to respond to those attacks with vigor.

### National Council of Churches

The Metropolitan Community Church has planned an inter-denominational lesbian, gay and bisexual gathering to take place concurrently with the November meeting of the National Council of Churches in New Orleans. The program, dealing with the religious right, will feature MCC minister Mel White, author of *Stranger at the Gate*.

As a cost-saving measure, the Affirmation National Council has asked Sam Wilson of Dallas to attend as our representative. He will be a witness to the presence of lesbian, gay and bisexual Christians in United Methodism, connect with United Methodist delegates to the National Council of Churches and participate in the parallel event planned by MCC.

United Methodist delegates have been among the strongest supporters of lesbian and gay interests on the National Council of Churches. NCC President-elect, Melvin Talbert, speaks out strongly and consistently on lesbian/gay/bisexual issues. We intend to strengthen their witness by our presence.

### Homosexuality Study

It is never comfortable, and it shouldn't be necessary, to be "studied." That said, the Witness Committee believes the new curriculum "The Church Studies Homosexuality" is faithful, fair and useful. The leader's guide is particularly helpful, providing advice and exercises to reduce polemics and to open minds. In almost all settings, its use would be a step in the direction of greater understanding and acceptance.

### General Conference Presence

Affirmation will build its 1996 General Conference presence around the theme "And grace will lead us home." Evoking the third verse of the hymn "Amazing Grace," the theme speaks to the grace that has already lead lesbian, gay and bisexual Christians through dangers, toils and snares. It invites the Church to move beyond polarization to a grace-ful acceptance of each other. With this theme we hope to build a presence that is strong, hopeful and gracious.

The National Council will review and adopt a platform statement and a packet of legislative proposals for General Conference at its January meeting. Please send any suggested proposals to the Affirmation PO Box before the end of December, 1994.

Jeanne Knepper  
Convenor




## Staff Position

Approximately six months ago, due to a generous gift to Affirmation, the National Council

\*\*\*\*\*  
*The Council...has extened the staff position for another six months.*

\*\*\*\*\*

hired a part-time staff person. The value of this position has been very evident. The Council, after discussion with the finance committee, has extended the staff position for another six months. Along with this decision came the agreement to extend the staff position contract of Greg Wise for those six months. His work has been greatly appreciated by the many people who have had reason to be in contact with him. If you need to get a message to Greg, or any of the Council members, you can do so through National Affirmation's new telephone number 





*Council Notes...from page one*

In our continuing effort to make our presence known and felt within the United Methodist Church the Council agreed to empower Sam Wilson to represent Affirmation at the New Orleans meeting of the National Council of Churches Governing Board November 9-12, 1994.

\*\*\*\*\*  
*The agenda includes a discussion of a witness event...*  
\*\*\*\*\*

We will also have four Council members attending the meeting of the General Commission on the General Conference November 17, 1994, in Denver. The agenda includes a discussion of a witness event for lesbian, gay and bisexual rights during the 1996 General Conference. We invite you to join with Council members in a period of prayer the day before and the day of the gathering.

Due to the resignation of a Council member from the Northeastern Jurisdiction the election process was begun. A request for nominations has gone out to the membership in that region. Following the acceptance of the nomination by the named individuals an election ballot will be mailed. The elected person will complete the term of the Council member who resigned.

The Council took time to reflect on the life of our friend and fellow Council member Jay McCarty who died in July. Jay was elected to the Council as an At-Large member so the Council named nominees to fill his unexpired term. The nomination was brought to the membership at the Los Angeles National Gathering.

Relating to the election of Council members the Council agreed to name a Nominating Committee to serve for a three year term. The Planning and Evaluation Committee is responsible for assembling that committee.

Two actions concerned our relationship with the Reconciling Congregation Program. Morris Floyd was re-elected to a three year term on the Board of Directors of the RCP. In addition

\*\*\*\*\*  
*The current agreement...expires on March 1, 1995.*  
\*\*\*\*\*

tion three Council members were selected to represent Affirmation in talks with the RCP Board of Directors regarding the future relationship of the two organizations. The current agreement between National Affirmation and the Reconciling Congregation Program expires on March 1, 1995.

The Program Committee is working on the Spring 1995 National Gathering, our 20th Anniversary, and reviewing the document for local groups on how to host a National Gathering. The Evangelism Committee is exploring the creation of a "movement building" mailing list which would receive an abbreviated version of the newsletter. This committee is also reviewing the effectiveness of the Regional Organizing Program. The Witness Committee continues to focus on the 1996 General Conference including Affirmation's platform statement and specific legislative recommendations.

The Council established the Lucille and Mel Wheatley Award to be presented periodically to persons who have stood with us in the struggle.

The next meeting of the Council will be January 14-17, 1995, in Las Vegas, Nevada. We will be hosted by the North Las Vegas Wesley United Methodist Church.



*Bishop's Award...from page one*

The Bishop stated, "She is a member of the National Affirmation Council, and is very active

\*\*\*\*\*  
*"She...work(s) diligently for the day when all persons...will be allowed full participation in the Church."*  
\*\*\*\*\*

in promoting understanding of Homosexuality and Reconciling Congregations. Known for her honesty and integrity, she is very open about her sexual orientation and has never accepted a job in the church without making that known. She and her family partner of 10 years work diligently for the day when all persons, regardless of their sexual orientation, will be allowed full participation in the Church."

"Receiving this award from Bishop Talbert is a special honor," stated Jeanne Barnett in her acceptance. "Bishop Talbert has made his views known of acceptance of all persons without regard to their sexual orientation. I know I am fortunate to be in the California-Nevada Annual Conference, a Reconciling Conference."





[Editor's note: The following report will give those of us who were not there a good idea of what went on, and for those who were there, maybe another viewpoint.]

## Diary of a Secret "First-Timer"

a report on the L.A. National Gathering -- by  
Mike Bagwell, Alexandria, Virginia

**Sunday, October 2--***The weekly worship service of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of Affirmation, Washington, DC.*

It's "Joys and Concerns" time and I end up contributing the bulk of both. My joys: that I leave this week for the gathering in Los Angeles and that a large delegation from our group will be joining me there. My concerns: as an "official representative" of our chapter I'll be the eyes and ears for all our members, many of whom feel little or no connection to the national group, to its history or to its involvement in the political structure of the United Methodist Church. They ask questions like, "What is National Affirmation all about? Where is it going and how do we fit in? How do we keep the spirit we have here alive and growing and how do we pass it on to others?"

**Thursday, October 6--** *National Airport*

California, here we come! Of the seven people in our group, only Tom Russell and I are actually traveling together. Everyone else has plans to stay longer and make a vacation out of it. I envy them already. Note to American Airlines: take a tip from the United Methodists, when people have to sit for long periods of time in uncomfortable seats, always give them plenty of food!

**Friday, October 7--** *LAX*

We arrive just after midnight Pacific Time and meet up with Mark Clark from our chapter. For us it is 3 a.m., but we are absolutely giddy with excitement and there is little chance of us getting much sleep tonight. We share this news with Greg Wise, National Affirmation's sole paid staffer, and our roommate for the weekend. Greg arrived several hours ahead of us and was probably deep in REM sleep when we barreled into the room. Poor Greg...and he has to work tomorrow!

By Friday afternoon the hotel is buzzing with activity. Affirmation folk from eleven states and the District of Columbia have gathered for an opening mixer in the glass-walled penthouse conference room called the "Top of the [Sunset] Strip." This will be our primary gathering place

for the weekend. For many in the room, this is reunion of old friends from diverse places whose lives became linked through shared struggle. For others, like Mark Clark or Freddie Brabson from Claremont, CA, this is a chance to meet and connect with that history--and to hopefully find ways to join in and make their own contributions. These folks--the "first-timers" or "virgins" to a national gathering--have rainbow stickers on their name tags. I don't have a sticker, but I should. Technically I did attend the gathering in Washington several years ago, arriving at lunch-time and sitting through a fifteen minute debate on a parliamentary procedure. Then I left to see the Quilt which was being displayed on the Mall, and I never returned. This time around I have responsibilities, as well as a great personal need, to be a part of the entire gathering. I am a secret "first-timer."

**Saturday, October 8--** *The "Top of the Strip"*

As the hymn says, "My Lord, What a Morning!" The sun is shining, the sky is a burning blue, and the smog's been blown away by the Santa Ana winds. We can see--clearly--the Hollywood Hills behind us and the great city stretched out in front of us from the skyscrapers downtown to the ocean at Santa Monica and the rugged coastal horizon. Even the Angelenos seem amazed by this day!

The Rev. Lisa Reyes of Toluca Lake UMC leads our morning devotional, which includes moving personal testimonies from Bob Martinez of Los Angeles and Paul Williams of Caldwell, Idaho. John Rice of Knoxville, Tennessee, delivers an energetic musical wake-up call that has us literally jumping out of our seats [editor's note: we have been told that John Rice died in an automobile accident in early November].. The Coordinator of Affirmation/Los Angeles, Rod Spratt, seeming every bit the quintessential Californian despite his South Carolina accent, welcomes us to the gathering and runs through the schedule. Can these folks put on a show or what?! Then we get down to business.

I must admit that when I first heard the topic of this gathering, "Outing the Bible," I was skeptical. Not knowing the speaker or any of the people involved in the program, I frankly expected it would be some radical, half-baked diatribe, full of anger and laced with theological potholes the size of Buicks. I couldn't have been more wrong.

*Please turn to page five*



Diary...from page four

This is not to say that what the Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson suggests isn't radical: that gay and

\*\*\*\*\*  
*Hers is a message of love, strength and hope...*  
\*\*\*\*\*

lesbian people can be found throughout the Bible, that we were an integral part of the society of that time, and that the "Good News" applies equally to us--just as we are--for the Bible tells us so. If that won't rile 'em down in Lynchburg and Virginia Beach, I don't know what will! As for the "half-baked" notion, I have heard few arguments as cogent, logical and well-founded as is this by Rev. Wilson, the senior minister of MCC/LA. Hers is a message of love, strength and hope, not an angry discourse. The "theological potholes" are not to be found in her thesis, but in the many and various ways that theologians have danced around the facts (or covered them up) for centuries, leaving room for doubt and further examination that one could easily fill with at least a dozen Buicks, several Winnegabos and the 747 they flew in on.

In summary, every lesbian, gay and bisexual person on the planet should hear this message. Then, every heterosexual person should hear it. How's that for a mission statement?

Our spirits float gently back to Earth, like that feather in "Forrest Gump," to land in a quaint little park tucked behind the hotel across the street. It's lunch time, the point where I

\*\*\*\*\*  
*Being good Methodists, we quickly devour our meal...*  
\*\*\*\*\*

came in two years and some 3,000 miles ago. Being good Methodists, we quickly devour our meal which had originally covered the tops of two and a half picnic tables. After all, there are several more hours of sitting in uncomfortable chairs before dinner.

The afternoon program is divided into three concurrent discussion groups, each with a topic which builds in some way on the "Outing the Bible" theme. Dr.

\*\*\*\*\*  
*...behind door number three, we have the provocatively titled "Sex in the Church" discussion group...*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Craig O'Neill, a Roman Catholic priest and Spiritual Director with the Center for Sacred Psychology in Culver City, CA, leads a discussion around the new book he co-authored, Coming Out Within: Stages of Spiritual Awakening for Lesbians and Gay Men. In the next room, historian Robert Dawidoff and attorney Michael Nava address the legislative issues they cover in their book, Created Equal: Why Gay Rights Matter to America, which is likewise hot-off-the-presses. Finally, behind door number three, we have the provocatively titled "Sex in the Church" discussion group, led

\*\*\*\*\*  
*I truly hope she writes an autobiography.*  
\*\*\*\*\*

by the Rev. Jim Cohn, a noted social activist in the Los Angeles area, and Connie Norman, an AIDS service center director and a self-described "ex-drag queen, ex-hooker, ex-IV drug user, ex-high risk youth, and current 43 year-old post operative transsexual woman who is HIV positive." I truly hope she writes an autobiography.

Judging from the laughter and applause coming from their room, the "Sex in the Church" discussion must be a real barn burner. Policy wonk that I am, I naturally attend the talk on gay rights. Not surprisingly, all my fellow Washingtonians are there as well. You can take us outside the beltway...

Concluding the working portion of the gathering is a business meeting of Affirmation. Among the items of interest to me and my chapter: changing the annual meeting plan from two national gatherings to one national and one regional gathering; a fresh emphasis on building up existing chapters and creating new ones; and an interest in taking a more evangelical approach to the greater gay, lesbian and bi community. Considering Nancy Wilson's talk this morning, the latter seems a very winning idea.

That evening, 125 people gather in the "Top of the Strip" for the closing banquet. Our featured speaker is the Rev. Dr. James Lawson, senior pastor of Holman UMC in Los Angeles and a veteran civil rights activist.

\*\*\*\*\*  
*...step out of our "safe" areas and to speak against injustice...*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Dr. Lawson reminds us that our struggle for recognition and civil rights is part of a larger struggle for basic human dignity which spans all ages as well as the globe. He encourages us to step out of our "safe" areas and to speak against injustice wherever we find it.

Two people who have done just that are Mel and Lucille Wheatley. Their public support of gay men and lesbians in the

*Please turn to page nine*



## Affirmation National Council

Jeanne Barnett  
Sacramento, CA  
[REDACTED]

Robert Bryant  
Raleigh, NC  
[REDACTED]

John R. Calhoun  
Oklahoma City, OK  
[REDACTED]

Ellie Charlton  
Sacramento, CA  
[REDACTED]

Morris Floyd  
Minneapolis, MN  
[REDACTED]

David L. Gunnell  
Evanston, IL  
[REDACTED]

Nancy Levan  
Fresno, CA  
[REDACTED]

Sam Wilson  
Dallas, TX  
[REDACTED]

Tom Russell  
Washington, DC  
[REDACTED]

Gloria Soliz  
San Francisco, CA  
[REDACTED]

Paul Thompson  
Studio City, CA  
[REDACTED]

Judith WestLee  
Minneapolis, MN  
[REDACTED]

Mark Wilson  
Tuscaloosa, AL  
[REDACTED]

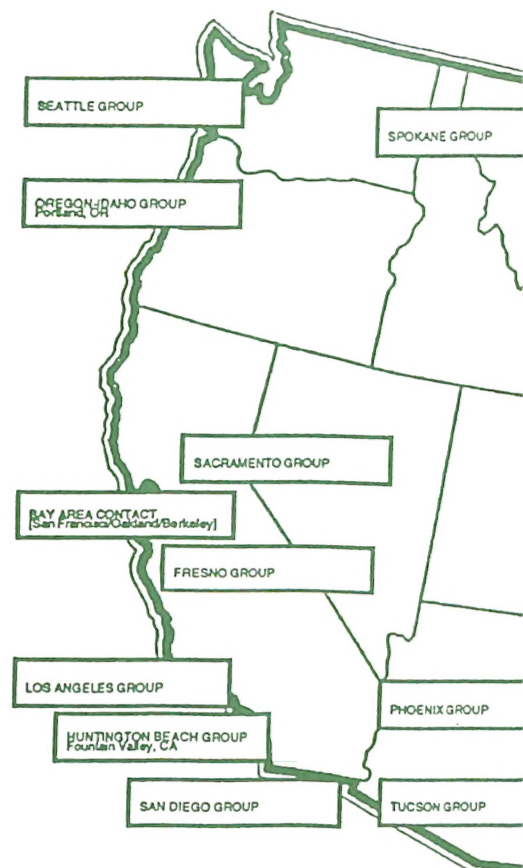
Jeanne Knepper  
Portland, OR  
[REDACTED]

Jan Olson  
Chicago, IL  
[REDACTED]

One man in Chicago

One woman in Maryland

One woman in Tennessee



LOCAL NE

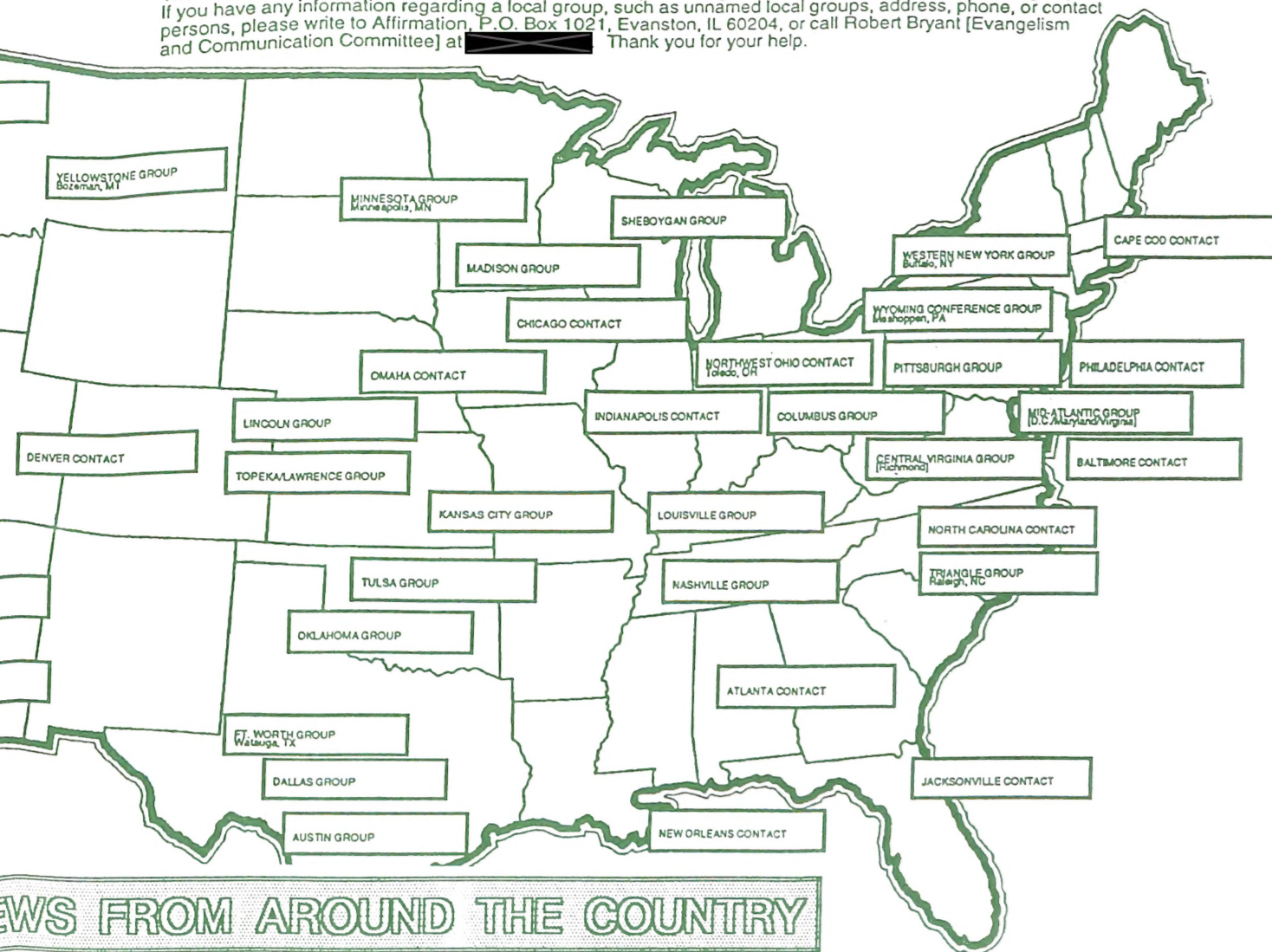
Dallas Affirmation usually meets every fourth Monday at 7:00 pm, at Northaven UMC, 11211 Preston Road at Northaven Road. The Third Sunday Lunches are regular gatherings of Affirmation members and their friends. In July, the group had a summer songfest and communion service. Also in July, Dallas Affirmation participated in a Interfaith Swim Party. The group held a food drive for the AIDS Resources Center in August. A Black Tie Dinner was held in September. About twenty members participated in the Life Walk '94 in October. The group's annual camping trip will be held November 4th-6th at Lake Murray State Park. For additional information write to [REDACTED], Dallas, Texas [REDACTED]

Affirmation of Wyoming Conference holds a worship service every Sunday at 7:00-8:30 pm in the Narthex of Tabernacle UMC, 83 Main St. Binghamton, New York. This group has an incredible ministry and a wide range of programs. For more information write to [REDACTED], Binghamton, NY [REDACTED] or call [REDACTED]

Austin Affirmation meet bimonthly for the usual potluck and program. Recent meetings have been in member's homes and local restaurants. For additional information write to Affirmation, [REDACTED], Austin, Texas [REDACTED]



The National Affirmation Council is updating its directory of local groups. Below is a map of all known groups. If you have any information regarding a local group, such as unnamed local groups, address, phone, or contact persons, please write to Affirmation, P.O. Box 1021, Evanston, IL 60204, or call Robert Bryant [Evangelism and Communication Committee] at [REDACTED] Thank you for your help.



## NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

Affirmation Los Angeles did a wonderful job welcoming the National Gathering of Affirmation to Hollywood. A good time was held by all! A highlight of the meeting was the Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson's talk on Outing the Bible. In October the group to a ferry to the Island of Catalina. Recently efforts to be listed in the United Methodist district directories of Los Angeles, Long Beach, Santa Barbara and San Diego were successful. Affirmation Los Angeles meets the second Sunday of each month for programs, worship, refreshments and fellowship at Westwood United Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m. For additional information write to Affirmation Los Angeles, [REDACTED] West Hollywood, CA [REDACTED] or call [REDACTED]

Shalom Ministries held a visible and multi-faceted presence at the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference in Boise, Idaho in June. They continue to hold Tuesday night support groups and Wednesday night fellowship's at SE 52nd and Lincoln, in Portland. Shalom Ministries is an outreach ministry of empowerment, education and justice that serves lesbian, gay and bisexual people, people living on the social or economic edge, people who have been alienated from religion, and churches who want to welcome any of these people. For more information about Shalom Ministries write to [REDACTED] Portland, OR 97266 or call [REDACTED]

Please turn to page eight



Local News...from page seven

### Mid-Atlantic Affirmation

meets weekly for Sunday Evening worship services and a Tuesday Evening Bible Study. For more information write to [REDACTED], L'Enfant Plaza Station, Washington, D.C. [REDACTED]

Mid-Atlantic celebrated its 15th Anniversary on Sunday evening, November 13. Mark Bowman, Director of the Reconciling Congregation Program was the speaker at the special dinner. Ten individuals were honored for their contributions to the group, including five of the founders of the local group. Also honored were the two local Reconciling Congregations, Christ UMC and Dumbarton UMC (where MAA meets every Sunday at 6:00 P.M.). Five MAA members attended the National Gathering in Los Angeles, and reported that they were very hopeful of the renewed focus of National Affirmation. Also, MAA members participated in AIDSWALK '94 on Saturday, September 24, helping to raise funds for AIDS services and education.

### Central Virginia Affirmation

holds meetings at Pace Memorial UMC, 700 West Franklin St., Richmond, Virginia. In July the group held a picnic with Dignity and Integrity at the Midway Farm in Hanover County. September found the group participating in the 1994 Pride Parade and The Richmond Pride Festival. For more information write [REDACTED], Richmond, VA [REDACTED] or call [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Nashville Affirmation spent time at their July meeting sharing things that have significance in their lives. At the August meeting, the group discussed the politics and ethics of Outing. Abby Rubenfeld spoke to the group at their September meeting. In November the group will be meeting with Integrity for potluck and fellowship. Nashville Affirmation meets monthly for a potluck and a time of fellowship at Edgewood UMC, 1502 Edgemoor Avenue. For information about monthly meetings and other activities write to Affirmation, P.O. Box 24213, Nashville, TN 37202.

Affirmation Susquehanna Valley Call Joel at [REDACTED] for more information.

### **Please note:**

If you want news about your local group included in this Newsletter, I need to hear from you! Please send your Newsletter or any other information that explains how, when and where your group meets. Be sure to include a contact person, address or phone number. You can send all information to Fritz Schultz, [REDACTED] San Francisco, CA [REDACTED]



## HOLIDAY GREETINGS

### 1995 NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Date Articles Due	Publication Date
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#### SPRING

February 2, 1995	February 24, 1995
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#### SUMMER

April 26, 1995	May 19, 1995
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#### FALL

July 16, 1995	August 11, 1995
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#### WINTER

October 25, 1995	November 17, 1995
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All submissions should be sent to  
National Affirmation  
P.O. Box 1021  
Evanston, IL 60204



Diary...from page five

\*\*\*\*\*  
...this couple has not only survived, they've thrived...National Affirmation dedicates an award in their honor...  
\*\*\*\*\*

church and in their own family has brought this retired United Methodist bishop and his wife an enormous amount of criticism and hostility from within the church. Yet this couple has not only survived, they've thrived, and are as active and outspoken as ever. In recognition of their work, their courage and their love, the board of directors for National Affirmation dedicates an award in their honor: The Mel and Lucille Wheatley Award. And, fittingly, the Wheatleys are the first recipients.

Sunday, October 9--Outside the Hyatt on Sunset

We board a lumbering yellow school bus for the short ride to Crescent Heights UMC, in the heart of West Hollywood, to celebrate the conclusion of this

\*\*\*\*\*  
There to open the service is Bishop Roy Sano...who has hurried back from a conference in D.C. just to be with us...  
\*\*\*\*\*

national gathering. Rev. Thomas Griffith, the pastor of Crescent Heights, ushers us into the beautiful sanctuary we are told has recently been restored from damage suffered in the big January earthquake. There to open the service is Bishop Roy Sano of the Los Angeles District, who has hurried back from a conference in D.C. just to be with us this morning. The sermon is given by the Rev. Lisa

\*\*\*\*\*  
...to not only come out as gay and lesbian people, but also as Christian people...  
\*\*\*\*\*

Bove, a Presbyterian Minister serving on the campus of USC, and a gold medalist in the swimming competition at this summer's Gay Games. Rev. Bove urges us to not only come out as gay and lesbian people, but also as Christian people, saying that both "outings" can build bridges, make us stronger people and set us free from oppression.

Well, as Dorothy had to go back to Kansas, so we must all depart for our homes. It has been an incredible adventure thanks to the hard work and organizing skills of Affirmation/Los Angeles. I feel energized by the experience and I look forward to

\*\*\*\*\*  
I can enthusiastically recommend that my chapter increase their involvement in, and support of, the national group...  
\*\*\*\*\*

sharing this energy with the Mid-Atlantic chapter. Though not all the questions I brought with me were answered, I feel that I'm returning with a much clearer picture of the national group and the direction it's heading. I can enthusiastically recommend that my chapter increase their involvement in, and support of, the national group and that we add our skills and abilities to the national effort to make a place at the table for everyone in the United Methodist Church.



## 20th Anniversary National Gathering

Mark your calendar now for the 20th Anniversary National Gathering of Affirmation April 21-23, 1995, in Dallas, Texas. Members and friends of our movement will spend time there around the theme *Capturing the Tradition--Responding to the Challenge*.

Entries are now being accepted for a logo to mark this milestone gathering. The logo will appear in prominent and surprising places. Submit your entry by Jan. 1, 1995, to Judy WestLee, [REDACTED] Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]

Start looking through your collection of photographs and

\*\*\*\*\*  
Photographs...being sought...for composition into a video...  
\*\*\*\*\*

other memorabilia to bring to the gathering for display. Photographs, slides, movies and video tape are also being sought now for composition into a video for the opening event. Please send these contributions by March 1, 1995, to Judy (address above). We will make every effort to return items.

The April '95 gathering will provide opportunity to reflect on our history and to plant our roots even more permanently; then to participate in exploring what paths we want to take into the future nationally, in regions and in our local settings.

Affirmation National Gatherings are designed to be times of relaxation, of information and instruction, of energizing and of meeting new friends with similar interests from all over the nation. We'll see you in Dallas April 21-23, 1995!



# Affirmation

United Methodists  
for  
Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual  
Concerns



## Affirmation seeks to:

- coordinate advocacy with supportive United Methodist groups;
- respond to opportunities for ecumenical and interfaith witness and action;
- sponsor education and information services;
- inform members of activities in the church that may be of interest and offer suggestions as to possible responses.

I am interested in knowing more about:

- ☐ Becoming a member of national Affirmation and receive the quarterly newsletter.
- ☐ Upcoming national Affirmation Gatherings
- ☐ Affirmation groups or events in my region or city.
- ☐ Starting a local group.
- ☐ I want to provide financial support for the work of Affirmation.

I enclosed a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Conference \_\_\_\_\_

All Affirmation correspondence is mailed discreetly.  
All contributions to national Affirmation are tax deductible.

← **CLIP AND MAIL THIS COUPON TO:**

← **NATIONAL AFFIRMATION**  
← **P.O. BOX 1021**  
← **EVANSTON, IL 60204**

## AFFIRMATION BUDGET REPORT

	5/1/94 to 10/1/94	1994/95 BUDGET	BALANCE
<b>INCOME:</b>			
MEMBERSHIP	\$1,850.00	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 750.00
NATIONAL GATHERINGS	3,705.00	5,700.00	1,995.00
PLEDGE/DONATIONS	985.00	5,000.00	4,015.00
FUNDRAISING SALES	5.00	2,500.00	2,495.00
	\$6,545.00	\$15,800.00	\$9,255.00
<b>EXPENSES:</b>			
COUNCIL	\$ 722.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$2,778.00
COPIES/POSTAGE	449.85	1,200.00	750.15
ELECTIONS	00.00	300.00	300.00
EMERGING ISSUES	00.00	500.00	500.00
EVANGELISM	159.81	1,000.00	840.19
FUND RAISING	00.00	200.00	200.00
MEMBERSHIP	00.00	200.00	200.00
NATIONAL MEETINGS	00.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
NEWSLETTER	908.77	2,000.00	1,091.23
PLANNING/EVALUATION	00.00	100.00	100.00
PROGRAM	00.00	200.00	200.00
RCP TRAVEL	507.60	1,500.00	992.40
STEWARDSHIP	00.00	100.00	100.00
WITNESS/SPOKESPERSONS	972.00	1,500.00	528.00
	\$3,720.03	\$15,800.00	\$12,079.97
<b>SPECIAL GRANT:</b>			
STAFF	\$2,500.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 500.00
STAFF EXPENSE	414.85	1,000.00	585.15
	\$2,914.85	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,085.15



*The 20th Anniversary National Gathering*

## CAPTURING THE TRADITION-- RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGE

*Dallas, Texas  
April 21 - 23, 1995*

The program will begin early Friday evening and conclude early Sunday afternoon. You won't want to miss a moment.

*This will be the only National Gathering in 1995!*

Speakers, preachers and program leaders are being confirmed now.

Registration information and full program details will be available the first week of January.

Here's some of what you can expect:

### CHALLENGING KEYNOTE WORKSHOPS ON MAKING OUR PLACE AND BUILDING OUR MOVEMENT MUTUAL SUPPORT AND SHARING BANQUET TEXAS STYLE FESTIVAL WORSHIP

*Make plans now! Watch for spring air fare sales starting after Christmas  
Check out Southwest Airline's low fares to Dallas.*

*Be among the first to receive program details and registration information by  
returning the coupon to Affirmation, P.O. Box 1021, Evanston, IL 60204*

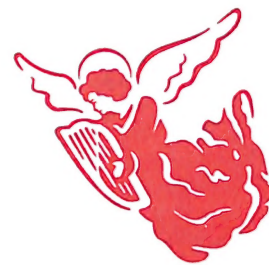
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*Send me information in January about the 20th Anniversary National Gathering!*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_





# HOLIDAY GREETINGS



*From all of us at  
National Affirmation --  
George Hodgdon,  
Newsletter Editor  
Gregory Wise  
Office Manager  
All the Members of the  
National Council!*